

IN the course of the present and past seasons, we at the 'Bucks Free Press' have received many letters stating varying opinions on matters concerning Wycombe Wanderers.

This season, with the switch to a squad system, the departure of many old faces, and the arrival of just as many, if not more, new ones, the postbag has been perhaps heavier than usual.

Some are complimentary to manager Brian Lee, others state criticisms. Most are backed by signatures and addresses, and only these are considered for publication.

A minority few however, prefer to remain anonymous or to leave out mention of their addresses or telephone numbers. These are necessarily dismissed off hand.

It is unfortunate though, for they often have well thought out opinions and ideas. And

Your chance to quiz Wanderers' manager

certainly all seem to have the interest of Wycombe Wanderers at heart.

Because of this, I have contacted Mr. Lee, who has agreed to attend a forum between himself and supporters to discuss any queries or criticisms they may have.

It only remains now for a date to be fixed. And that is up to the supporters to decide.

Proud week

ON the whole it's been a proud week for Wycombe. Top of the list, alongside the Wanderers

spurt at the head of the Isthmian League table, is Viv Busby's magnificent success story with Luton Town.

He is fast establishing himself with their first team and debuted with Town's final goal in a 5-0 hammering of Reading.

Since he has given two further fine performances, although missing a 'sitter' against Barnsley on Tuesday night.

Reports lay emphasis on his confidence and maturity — something which he showed only spasmodically while with Wanderers.

Another man around the pro

ranks, goalkeeper John Pratt, is also beginning to show well for Reading. His form suggests that first team football before the end of the season is not out of the question.

WYCOMBE'S SUPPORTERS QUIZ MANAGER LEE

THERE was lively discussion when more than 50 Wycombe Wanderers supporters had their first opportunity to take part in a question and answer session with Manager Brian Lee in the Loakes Park clubroom on Tuesday evening.

The meeting was the result of the efforts of Mr. Lee and 'Bucks Free Press' sports editor, Mike Whitesman — who chaired the meeting — and was designed to let the supporters "have their say" on club policy and the team's performance during the season.

At the outset Mr. Lee expressed his gratitude at the "tremendous interest" shown by supporters during the year and one of the first questions he answered concerned the topic of referees encountered by the team home and away.

The question came from Mr Deaney — a supporter for some 20 years — who felt that the team had suffered through "really atrocious" refereeing, and asked what could be done about this.

Replied Mr. Lee, "As far as the referees are concerned I tell the players it's no good complaining to them — and we don't have a lot of that sort of thing at Wycombe. I want to win by skill not by brute force, and remember, we accept the referee before the games start."

He went on, "I am quite sure we must be one of the best teams for referees to referee. In county cricket umpires were former county players. Look at referees and you can say they have played in junior football. But don't put them in senior

football where they don't know the problems. All we can do is to be tolerant until the system is changed."

Mr. G. Roberts raised the question as to whether any decision had been taken on the reserve section of the Isthmian League.

"This matter was not taken lightly but recommended by me last year. It had to be considered whether first of all it was a wise decision from a financial point of view and whether a squad system would work," said Mr. Lee.

"As far as the Isthmian League is concerned in this day and age, to run a reserve side is very expensive and not productive."

Asked if he was satisfied about the total number in the squad, and balance, Mr. Lee replied, "It's difficult. We have got to be sensible as far as economy and to have the right balance 16 players is about right so that you have got two goalkeepers and 14 players for ten positions. We are short of forwards — they are not around, and this is a tremendous problem." He thought that the number in the squad was right and the balance had "not been bad" but it could be "a bit more on the attacking side."

When the question of the departure of Len Worley was

raised, Mr. Lee explained, "this was a decision reached with Len. Forgetting the personality of the player, going forward and putting the ball across was his contribution, and he was good at it, his tacking has not deteriorated. He was a most frustrating player to play with, but brilliant. He has had a good innings and I would rather he finished at the top."

With regard to the departure of Viv Busby, Mr. Lee said he had received a letter from a supporter claiming that the player had been "killed by Darvill, buried by Lee and resurrected by Luton."

He himself felt that Busby "had ability" and had a flair for the game if he was interested at the time. "If he lost interest," he said "then we started playing with ten men." He added that Busby was not a "particularly brave player" and although he was now in a professional club, someone would have to be "at him every day." "He has arrived but has a long way to go," he said.

Before the meeting closed one questioner asked what the cost might be to level the Loakes Park pitch. Mr. J. Smethurst, chairman of Wycombe Wanderers, who was amongst the supporters said that cost aside, such a move would also involve alterations to the stand. But if it were undertaken, it would "cost thousands".